



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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TO: File

THRU: Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist and Project Team Lead 

RE: Berm and Topsoil Stockpile Amendment, Nevada Electric Investment Company,
Wellington Preparation Plant, ACT/007/012-AM99B, Folder # 2 Carbon County,
Utah.

SUMMARY:

On November 1, 1999, Nevada Electric Investment Company (NEICO) submitted an amendment in response to reviews associated with three permitting actions. These are the permit renewal (PR99), an amendment dealing with a berm and topsoil (99B), and a reduction in the permit area (99C). In addition, the amendment includes a proposal to change the operator from Earthco to Nevada Electric Investment Company. The Division separated each submittal as they were originally received and has approved all except 99B. This memorandum is a review of the most recent information on 99B.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION AND RECLAMATION PLANS

SOILS

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-230, R645-301-521.160, R645-301-240

Analysis:

In the coal handling area, there is an area of coal and/or coal waste ranging in depth from about one inch to 51 inches. The permittee sampled this material and found it to have boron levels higher than those shown in the Division's guidelines as being acceptable for plant growth.

The 1999 sampling was done thoroughly and objectively. Each of five samples was a composite of five subsamples. Analysis of the data using a one-sided t-test with $\alpha=.90$ indicates the mean, 5.63 ppm, is greater than the Division's upper limit for boron concentration (5 ppm).

The lower limit of the confidence interval is 5.17.

The application includes a map showing locations in this area from which samples were taken and depth readings. It also includes an estimate of the amount of material and a commitment to move the material to the coarse refuse pile at the time of final reclamation if it has not been sold or removed as a coal product. The estimated volume is 13,170 yd³.

After the coaly material is removed, the current reclamation plan says the coal handling area will be covered with six inches of soil followed by application of surface preparation and revegetation treatments. While revegetation of the Wellington site is expected to be difficult, this plan is acceptable and should be approved.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The reclamation plan for the coal storage and processing area is adequate and should be approved.